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DERO FRANKS/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Players and coaches of the Pelham Powell Dryall bantam rep Panthers get ready to go door-to-door collecting donations after receiving their route assignments at the Pelham Food Drive. See more on Page 8.



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Pelham breaks ground on \$32.6M arena complex

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

After well more than a decade of discussion, the Town of Pelham has broken ground for a multi-use community centre. The facility that will feature

a twin-ped arena at the corner of Regional Road 20 and Rice Road in Fortmill is expected to take more than a year to build.

Last Wednesday Mayor Dave Augustyn, town councillors, former mayors and people from the community took part in a

ceremonial ground-breaking ceremony for the long-awaited, and much-anticipated, Pelham Community Centre.

Augustyn said he was pleased to finally put a shovel in the ground after so much hard work to get the project off

the drawing board.

"We actually had stacks and stacks of reports, and the latest one was issued in 2006 and came out in 2010 saying there is that need, but we never actually did the business-case analysis," he said.

Augustyn said town council in 2012 recognized a need to do an analysis to determine what Pelham residents wanted in a community centre, and how much they would be willing to spend to get it.

While the analysis found

it wasn't feasible to include an indoor swimming pool, it made sense to have two ice pads as well as an arena for other sports, such as basketball.

See COMPLEX on A3

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MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn speaks at the ground-breaking ceremony for the multi-use community centre at Regional Road 20 and Rice Road.

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Friday, December 23: Closed
Monday, December 26: Closed
Tuesday, December 27: Closed
Wednesday, December 28: Open
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Friday, December 30: Closed
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LOCAL NEWS

Augustyn eyes visitors to boost local economy

COMPLEX FROM A2

"We also heard from the community, don't just build one arena, which is what the original plan was, build a second ice pad. So when we found out there was more than 75 per cent demand for that prime-time ice and that second pad then we moved ahead with that," Augustyn said.

The complex comes with a

price tag of \$36.2 million.

Augustyn said the town can afford to invest in such a project because of a fund-raising plan created for the project. It was determined under the plan the municipality could raise about \$3 million with the assistance of the community. Another \$12.1 million would come from development charges.

The project will also be

funded through the sale of land purchased several years ago for such a development.

Augustyn said the town owns about 20 acres of land and each acre could sell for about \$600,000. The remaining \$9 million of the project cost would be funded over 30 years through a debenture.

Augustyn said once the centre is completed, it will have a positive effect on the

local economy. More people from out of town will be visiting the area and shopping at nearby businesses.

He called further development and business investment a logical outcome of the community centre project.

"But in terms of the rationale for doing that, that wasn't council's primary rationale. Council's primary rationale

was to serve the community, that's a nice benefit," Augustyn said.

A decision on whether to continue operating Pelham Arena after the new complex opens hasn't been made yet. Augustyn said it costs the town about \$100,000 a year to run the arena on Halst Street.

With new infrastructure and technology, the commu-

nity complex's running costs will be about \$110,000 a year, so council will be discussing the issue in coming months.

Work began on the centre in late August and early September. It will take about 19 months to complete.

The anticipated opening is set for spring 2018.

MAllenberg@postmedia.com
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Ground breaking a milestone in Pelham's progress



DAVE
AUGUSTYN

Along with representatives of the Architectural Design Advisory Committee (ADAC), the Oversight Committee, former Mayor Beamer, town councillors and the CAO, I had the honour of ceremoniously breaking ground for the Pelham Community Centre last week.

While members of ADAC, the Oversight Committee,

Pelham sport and recreational associations, local service clubs, town staff, and the general public cheered on, we broke ground and threw some soil from "centre ice" of Arena A.

As you know, since 1990 the community has consistently voiced a desire for new recreational facilities. In late 2012, when council reviewed the seven consultant studies and staff reports, we confirmed that "no significant or meaningful financial work was completed."

That's why in 2013 the town hired LeisurePlan to survey you and your neighbours about your needs, to

test the business case for various amenities, and to develop an operating pro forma to satisfy those needs. In 2014 and 2015, LeisurePlan presented a number of reports demonstrating sustaining-demand for a community centre and recommending that the town construct a facility in the East Fonthill development area.

So, in August 2014, council established an Architectural Design Advisory Committee with 15 volunteers representing various recreational user groups, youth, seniors, artists, service clubs and the community-at-large. By October, council hired Petroff Architects

to professionally design the facility.

During 2015, ADAC worked tirelessly with the architect, LeisurePlan, and staff to develop concept drawings and presented a design. In the Fall of 2015, the town hired Ball Construction as a construction manager to refine the design with all involved.

In mid-March 2016, council received the final design from the architect, detailed construction estimates from the construction manager, and financing options from staff for the new centre. The town immediately started five weeks of community engagement on the

proposal.

Encouraged by the community support and because of our years of due diligence and community involvement, council approved the new community centre in late-April 2016.

During the summer and fall, council approved a maximum-price construction contract, and established an Oversight Committee to ensure the facility gets built on-time (by last-spring 2018) and on-budget (\$36.2 million).

I deeply appreciate all those involved - over many years - in developing the new Pelham Community Centre; the iterative yet

important process has been a genuine community and grassroots endeavour.

The ground breaking last week shows that by working together we can achieve great things and can continue to transform and improve our community.

I will keep you updated about Pelham's Community Centre - the facility that will serve for decades as our community's gathering place and recreational space for people of all ages and abilities.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayerdave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayor.dave.blogspot.com.

Ditch the wok for slow cooker



TIFFANY
MAYER

Warning: if you're reading this while waiting on a meal at your favourite Asian joint, shield your paper or screen from your server's eyes. And certainly don't read this in the presence of a wok.

Kelly Kwok has the recipe for saving money on your favourite Asian takeout: Make it at home - but do it in your slow cooker.

Yes, you read that correctly. That kitchen apparatus, known for doing things at a meandering pace without so much as a single stir from you, does up panang curry, banh mi, even chicken to mein quite convincingly.

Kwok proves it in her

newly released cookbook, *The Asian Slow Cooker* (Pepe Street Publishing Co.). The Niagara Falls woman delivers 80 recipes that recently had me dusting off an appliance that rarely sees light, scattering those grubby bits all over my wok in the process.

The concept of the book is surprising given most Asian food is cooked quickly over high heat. Yet the ma to fu I made in my old Rival rivalled anything I've ordered in a restaurant.

"One day I thought, 'Let's try cooking some lo mein in there,'" Kwok recalled about her foray into slow cooking.

"The method wasn't authentic but the flavours were."

A gutsy move, considering Kwok learned to cook from her parents when she was 11 and there wasn't a slow cooker in the house.



TIFFANY MAYER/SPECIAL TO POST-MEDIA NETWORK

Kelly Kwok of Niagara Falls is the author of the newly released cookbook *The Asian Slow Cooker*. The book was named one of the best cookbooks of 2016 by *The Washington Post*.

See COOKER on A6

Dr. Andrew Taylor passes 100,000 mark in procedures

Lasik ProVision is the Niagara Peninsula's only comprehensive refractive centre which deals with the treatment of common visual disorders. The centre was founded in its current location in 1999 and has evolved to a state of the art refractive centre with a global reputation for the laser correction

in corneal and refractive disorders. He has completed over 100,000 refractive procedures including lasik, photorefractive keratectomy and cataract surgery to date. In addition to his directorship role at Lasik ProVision, Dr. Taylor is an active staff member of The Niagara Health System in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Lasik ProVision has evolved in its current location from its original incarnation as Lasik Vision, which brought affordable lasik eye surgery to North America. Dr. Taylor restructured Lasik Vision in 2001 as a founding principal and owner of Lasik MD, which then went on to expand refractive clinics across Canada. In 2005, Dr. Taylor left Lasik MD to focus on more customized patient eyecare. In addition to his base clinic in Niagara Falls, he underwent an international expansion to London, England, Brussels, Belgium and the United States. Currently, in addition to his work in Niagara Falls, Dr. Taylor is involved in the development of a comprehensive ophthalmic centre in Toronto.



Dr. Andrew Taylor

of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. It is a world leader in bringing the treatment of Zeiss Laser Blended Vision for the treatment of presbyopic "reading glasses vision" to North America. In addition, the centre specializes in the treatment of cataracts and corneal disorders such as keratoconus.

Founder and medical director, Dr. Andrew W. Taylor, is one of North America's leading ophthalmologists in the use of excimer lasers in refractive surgery. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1991 and went on to complete a specialty residency in ophthalmology, also at the University of Toronto. He then went on to complete subspecialty training

"What is exciting now in refractive laser eye surgery is the safety of the procedure and the range of treatment options now available for patients. It is rare that a patient cannot benefit from refractive surgery" says Dr. Taylor. "The greatest development in recent years has been the use of the femtosecond laser for the creation of the flap upon which the lasik procedure is based. Not only does this create a thinner and more uniform flap which leads to better optical outcomes, it alleviates the need for a blade and cutting microkeratome which was for many patients the biggest hurdle preventing them from having refractive lasik surgery. The safety factor is so great, I no longer utilize the microkeratome blade in lasik eye surgery".

Dr. Taylor has extensive experience on several laser platforms. "While we started with the Bausch and Lomb platform in 1999, the industry has moved forward to provide greater customization for the unique optical errors of each individual patient. At Lasik ProVision, we currently and exclusively use the Carl Zeiss Meditec MEL 80 platform with the VisuMax femtosecond laser. "This platform in my belief delivers the optimal reshaping of the cornea to maintain the natural corneal shape for optimal optical correction and customization. Zeiss laser Blended Vision is unique in the treatment of presbyopia or "reading glasses vision". It is the only excimer laser platform that predictably increases the range of vision so patients can see at near, intermediate and far without the loss of stereovision. This is truly exciting. Previously, and on other laser platforms, we could only treat with monovision with one eye corrected for far and one eye corrected for distance. This left patients with a loss of intermediate vision and reduced stereoacuity. It worked, but Zeiss Laser Blended Vision works so much better."

What is the future of refractive surgery? "The future is continuing to refine the refractive outcome with ever safer and less invasive procedures. I am very excited that within the next year, we will begin to fully utilize the femtosecond laser's potential, going beyond the creation of better flaps to conducting the entire laser procedure within the cornea without a flap. This may sound like science fiction, but it is a reality and I am honoured that Zeiss has chosen to partner with Lasik ProVision in Niagara Falls to bring this technology to North America. To obtain additional information or to book your FREE consultation please contact our refractive counselors at 1-888-510-2020 or 905-371-3217 You may visit our website at www.lasikprovision.com

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'The whole book is for her, to honour her'

COOKER from A4

The discovery that she could do up her favourite Asian takedown in a creek-pot was rooted in a bit of desperation. Kwok is the creator of the popular food blog, *Life Made Sweeter*. But until four years ago, she was more focused on the word of the law rather than penning instructions for Szechuan beef.

Kwok lived in Toronto where she worked as a paralegal and attended law school. She and her husband clocked long days, which put the pressure on come dinner. Kwok was up to the challenge until a snowstorm turned her com-

mutte from her downtown office to home in Vaughn into a three-hour journey.

She decided to turn to the oval contraption she had once been gifted for help. That successful chicken lo mein experiment was enough to keep using it.

Kwok relied on her slow cooker even more when she had her son, Ethan, then again when her daughter, Evelyn, was born. She was using it every night.

In between the birth of her children, Kwok packed in big city life for a slower one with her family in Niagara Falls. She also started

blogging, launching *Life Made Sweeter* in 2013, the name for which was inspired by her feelings about motherhood.

Ethan motivated Kwok to cook more and, if she remembered to take a pleasure, she'd post her creations to her site. She got comments and started connecting with other food bloggers.

E-mails came after Kwok had Evelyn and took a break from blogging. Readers wondered if she'd ever return. She did with recipes that would turn her hobby into a full-time job.

"I started posting more

“
My husband said you have to decide. I wasn't sleeping. I was staying up to post anyway.”

slow cooker recipes. That's when my page views skyrocketed to numbers I hadn't seen before," Kwok said.

Next came the calls from a publishing company, but with two young children she figured there was no time to write a cookbook. She also wasn't convinced she

wanted to be an author.

The publishing company persisted. "My husband said you have to decide. I wasn't sleeping. I was staying up to post anyway."

Her mom's reaction to the offer sealed the proverbial deal. She was skeptical when Kwok skipped out on the bar exam to blog. But when Kwok told her she had been approached by a publisher, something changed. "I saw her face and gave it some thought and I knew she'd be proud. The whole book is for her, to honour her."

And to say thanks for those slow cooker-free cooking lessons all those years ago. "Even if I didn't sell a single copy of the book, it was my way to say thank you."

She won't have to worry about book sales. Last week, *The Washington Post* put *The Asian Slow Cooker* on its list of the best cookbooks of 2016. It earned the coveted

spot for its "doable renditions for anyone who has a pantry full of supermarket-access Asian ingredients."

Kwok covers everything from popular takeout dishes, meals with five ingredients or less to vegetarian versions and Dessert. Staying true to the cooking methods of some of her favourite dishes, she has a chapter dedicated to one-skillet meals done on the stovetop because, as she learned, pad Thai "gets super mushy" in a slow cooker.

The book will take the fear out of cooking Asian food for some people, Kwok said. The trade-off is the texture won't always be the same as stir-fried versions but you do get more flavour.

She also has a book that made both her parents proud.

"My mom had tears of joy," Kwok said. "They kept telling me they were so proud of me. They loved it and that was enough for me."

— Tiffany Mayer is the author of *Niagara Food: A Flavourful History of the Peinerville's Bounty* (The History Press). She also blogs about food and farming at eatingniagara.com. You can reach her at eatingniagara@gmail.com or on Twitter @[eatingniagara](https://twitter.com/eatingniagara).

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Town of Pelham

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- All displays must be visible from the street frontage of the nominated address.
- All entrants understand their property may be photographed and photo's may be used in the promotion of the event.
- All entrants agree to their home to be an advertised stop on the Christmas Light Tour for all residents to enjoy. Tour will run throughout the holiday season.
- All entrants will be notified of the competition results and winners will receive their prize following the judging.
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Thurs, Dec 15
10am – 11am

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November 2, 2016 – January 1, 2017

Get ready for the holidays. Check out these great upcoming events in Town & watch for more next week!

- December 1-15:** Christmas Light Competition – Nominate your favourite online at pelham.ca/christmas-in-pelham
- December 2-11:** Toy Drive – Fire Station #1
- December 8 (9-10am):** Nordic Walking with Santa – Peace Park
- December 10 (1-5pm):** Santa Claus Parade & Activities – Fenwick. Presented by the Fenwick Lions Club
- December 10 (11am & 3pm):** "We Three Spies" Children's Christmas Musical – Pelham Community Church
- December 12 (7-8:30pm):** Christmas Centrepiece Workshop – Fonthill Public Library. \$26.00/piece, please register
- December 13 (6:30-8:30pm):** Fonthill Kinsmen Seniors Dinner at Old Pelham Town Hall
- December 17 (2pm):** Christmas Concert by Caber-EH Youth Theatre Vocal Ensemble – Fonthill Public Library, free
- December 18 (11am-1pm):** Annual Gingerbread House Contest – Fonthill Legion. Free

Visit pelham.ca/christmas-in-pelham for full details.

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Hockey players assist Pelham Food Drive

BERND FRANKE
Postmedia Network

Panthers on the prowl Saturday in Pelham were so hungry they went door-to-door hunting for food.

Animal control wasn't on high alert nor were residents advised to keep children and pets indoors, though. Instead of canines carrying crabs, this breed of cats was all about donating their time to assist the less-fortunate in the community.

Players from three Pelham Minor Hockey Association teams, each wearing a green, black and white Panther jersey, were among

more than 250 volunteers who helped make the annual Pelham Food Drive a success.

Keith Moore, vice-president of Pelham Cares, said if history is any indication, the 26th annual drive will be as bountiful as the first 25.

"It's just over-the-top phenomenal community support," he said while taking a break from sorting donations at the dropoff depot at Rice Road Greenhouses.

Pelham Cares president Tracy Holmwood said a scale won't be needed to determine the success of the first community-wide canvass not to have food drive

founder Gerry Berkhout front and centre as the overall organizer.

"We don't weigh it, and we really don't count it," she said. "Once we sort and place all the food on the shelves (at the food bank), that's how we will know."

Pelham Cares, which operates the local food bank, traditionally gets enough food during the annual drive to keep the shelves stocked until late April or early May.

"Before we start, the shelves are at 10 to 15 per cent capacity," Moore said. "After we're done today, the shelves will be full again."



BERND FRANKE/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Players and coaches of the Pelham Powell Dryall bantam rep Panthers get ready to go door-to-door collecting donations after receiving their route assignments.

A small percentage of the non-perishables collected Saturday morning will be shared with food banks in Welling and operated by the Open Arms Mission and The Hope Centre.

Filling the void created by Berkhout's retirement are three service organizations — the Fabulous Fenwick Lions, Fonthill Lions Club, and Fonthill and District Kinsmen's Club — that co-ordinated blanket coverage by canvassers dividing the town into 22 routes.

Small teams of volunteers walking alongside pickups, SUVs and vans began going door-to-door at 9 a.m.

They were encouraged to knock on doors of residences that didn't leave a donation on the doorstep or porch.

"A lot of the time, it's people forgetting to put out a donation or forgetting that today's the day," said Lori Grande, co-ordinator of client services for Pelham Cares.

In most cases, homeowners excused themselves and went into their kitchens to "put something together to give."

"It's a super-generous community, both in terms of volunteering and in terms of donating," she said.

Grande spent the morning at the dropoff depot signing authorization slips for high school students collecting community service hours.

"It's nice to see kids out and starting their volunteering career early," she said.

Head coach Mark Lemick's bantam rep team warmed up for a hockey tournament later in the day in Fort Erie by going door-to-door on Lorimer Street.

See ASSIST on A16

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BOB TYMCZYSZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Teams from southern Ontario took part in the Niagara regional qualifier of the First Lego League at Governor Simcoe Secondary School in St. Catharines. For four separate awards, 11 teams competed in the event that teaches partnership skills, spirit, respect and robot building.

Fonthill teens engineer best Lego bot

BOB TYMCZYSZYN
Postmedia Network

There was some anxiousness and some teens held their hands to their faces as members of the Fonthill Nurdles watched their robot on a test run prior to head-to-head competition.

The auditorium at Governor Simcoe Secondary

School in St. Catharines was dark except for a brightly lit stage and projections screens, which let an audience view progress of the robots as they made their way through the course.

At stake was being one of two teams to move from the First Lego League Niagara regional qualifier event to the provincial champion-

ships.

Earning team members Laura Schaefer, 13, and Jacob Cheung, 14, were pretty confident in their chances.

They did finish in first place last year after all, and they had the experience of dealing with the pressure and knowing what it takes to win.

"We learn about teamwork and how to work together," said Cheung.

The team of four girls and three boys treat each other as equals, "and everybody gets along," he added.

Schaefer, who is in her last year at the competition, said she probably played with Lego when younger and admitted she just likes machines and building stuff.



It teaches them about programming and teamwork, and how robots work. I need to get this done. How do I go about getting that done? How do I get this thing to move around in a circle?"

Frank Brajer

"I've always loved Lego, and I want to be an engineer when I grow up," said the bright and bubbly student.

Frank Brajer, production supervisor at GM St. Catharines, said of the competition, "It teaches them about programming and teamwork, and how robots work."

"I need to get this done. How do I go about getting that done? How do I get this thing to move around in a circle?"

The students were creative at problem solving.

See LEGO on A14

Free adult event for ages 16+

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LOCAL NEWS

Nurdles finish first, advance to provincials championship

LEGO from A2Z

"There are all sorts of fancy things like milk canisters to move," said Bräjer.

Organizers set up two tables side by side and the teams had two and a half minutes to perform a task.

"They put (their robot) down in the home station and its hands off. It has to do it by itself. There's no remote, it has to do the task, then it will come back to home, and they will push a button for a second program," Bräjer said.

"Head-to-head gives it an

energetic feel to it and a real-world time constraint. In manufacturing you can't take as long as you want, you've got time constraints, and this gives some real world experience," he said.

Weighing the challenge as a referee, Grade 10 student Evan Bernat, from the VEX robotics team at Governor Simcoe, watched the excitement on students' faces.

"It's a progression. Once you get involved in this type of thing your learning starts to step up a lot, and it really helps with schooling and outside things,

not just robotics," Bernat said of the competition.

The self-described perfectionist said it occupies a lot of time, but there are benefits.

"It's easier to get a job, easier to get into university. They usually look for stuff like this because it's a great teamwork opportunity," he said.

At the end of the day, The Fonthill Nurdles finished first and The Frogs, from Dundas, placed second, both advancing to the provincial championships Jan. 14 at University of Waterloo.



BOB TYMCZYSZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Fonthill Nurdles get ready to run their test as teams from southern Ontario take part in the Niagara regional qualifier of the First Lego League Saturday at Governor Simcoe Secondary School in St. Catharines. For four separate awards, 11 teams competed in the event that teaches partnership skills, spirit, respect and robot building.

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LOCAL NEWS

'If the god smile on us, so be it'

ASSIST from AS

"It's our early morning warmup, to get the legs moving," he said with a chuckle.

Leduc said the initiative had nothing to do with getting the hockey gods to smile down on his team.

"This gives them an opportunity to represent the community and giving something back," he said. "It's not about the karma, it's about giving to the community."

"And if the god smile on

us, so be it."

Reporting for the route assignments at 8:30 a.m. meant a short turnaround for the bantam Panthers who doubled Richmond Hill 2-1 in their opening game of the tournament the night before in Fort Erie.

Damien Pullar, 14, said he didn't mind missing the chance to sleep in all that much, however.

"It's not that bad of a way to spend a Saturday morning," Pullar, a Grade 9 student at Notre Dame College

School in Welland, said.

Team captain Matthew Diraddo, also 14, doubted walking door-to-door would be a good substitute for practising on the ice in terms of preparation for the tournament, but assistant coach Harry Powell told the player to reconsider that position. "You should say 'yes' because if you give, you shall receive," said Powell, the team's sponsor and the owner of Powell Drywall.

Bfranke@postmedia.ca

Impaired driver with 10 convictions granted delay

TONY RICCIUTO
Postmedia Network

It's the same excuse James Meaghre gave the judge two months ago — and was granted an extension — which delayed him being sent off to jail for his 10th impaired driving-related conviction.

Meaghre, 64, of Niagara Falls is looking at a possible jail sentence ranging from 12 to 18 months.

Last Wednesday, Meaghre appeared in an Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines in front of Judge Peter Wilkie and asked for a further extension because he needs more time to try and store his property.

In early October, Meaghre appeared in court and was expected to be sentenced at that time, but he asked the judge for an extension because he needed to put some of his property in storage before he's sent off to jail for a considerable amount

of time.

That's the same excuse he provided the court last Wednesday, adding he's on a fixed income and is still trying to make some type of arrangement to store some of his belongings. Meaghre said he can't afford to pay for a storage unit and is hoping to find a friend who will hold onto his property until he's released from jail.

Meaghre was involved in a motor vehicle accident in July 2015 near the intersection of Morrison Street and Chrysler Avenue in Niagara Falls. He was operating a Super-M excavator and was involved in an accident with a van.

A 32-year-old woman from Welland, who was six months pregnant, was driving the van. There were no serious injuries, but the woman was taken to hospital for observation because of her condition.

On July 23, Meaghre appeared in court and entered a

guilty plea to the impaired driving charge from last year, which turned out to be his 10th conviction for impaired driving-related offences. He was banned from driving in 2007 after his ninth conviction.

He was an unlicensed driver and had been prohibited from driving in 1969. He has been prohibited from driving six times and has been suspended for life.

Assistant Crown attorney Linda Scaringt said Meaghre has had nearly six months since entering his guilty plea and this case "needs to be dealt with sooner than later."

The Crown is seeking a jail sentence in the range of 15 to 18 months, while the defence is recommending a 12-month sentence.

The judge adjourned the matter to Feb. 10, adding he didn't think the public will be put at risk while Meaghre remains at large.



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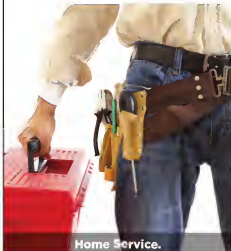
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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

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